Meditation Monthly International

Agni Yoga and the Chalice

Agni Yoga, sutra 655. How do people understand the law of Hierarchy? How do they fulfill its laws in life? How do they intensify the best striving in themselves? Truly the law of Hierarchy is mistakenly understood as an individual's right; it is forgotten that a Hierarch is a Link in a Chain, and One who fulfills the Will of an even Higher One. Only by knowing this is it possible to properly respond to the higher mission. Only thus can one validate the Trust and build the fiery accumulations in the Chalice.

Agni Yoga, sutra 554. Many thousands of years ago it was said, "The time will come when people will open their hearts and offer their Chalices to the Supreme." The time has approached when humanity nears its sixth stage of perfectment, and the flame will soon begin to glow above the Chalice. How many images and prophecies have been accumulated in space! Truly, it is time to recall the image of the Chalice, when resin flamed within the chalices of the ancients, and the priestess, leaning on the sword of attainment, raised the Chalice to the Highest.

Truly, the manifestations of psychic energy are as manifold and intricate as the most delicate design. It is not reason, but the straight-knowledge provided by the Chalice that can discern them. Just as a mother understands the agitation of her child, so does the fire of the Chalice illumine the disturbances of the currents. It is advisable that humanity ponder why the Chalice is of such great importance for the development of the future race.

Agni Yoga, sutra 565. Psychic energy was sometimes called Teros. In the Hermetic teaching one can find this expression: "The warrior Teros raised his shield." So was indicated the protective role of psychic energy.

Did you ever hear of a yogi being devoured by beasts? There was never such an occurrence, for no animal that possesses a particle of instinct would dare pit itself against the shield of Teros. The essential thing is to summon Teros out of the Chalice and into the extremities. The channels from the Chalice branch out to all the extremities, and some people can sense the light of the Chalice as a tension in the fingers and toes. Others can sense the light of the *Brahmarandhra* center with a corresponding feeling in the Chalice. All this is not metaphysics but a practical indication for application in life. Many are in need of protection; why, then, not utilize one's own treasure?

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Dear Friends,

I hope this year finds each and everyone one of you looking forward to 2011
with renewed enthusiasm, inspiration,
and progressive, creative ideas. When
we consider one of the most precious
treasures a human being has to resource
—the Chalice—it is no wonder that
we find our coworkers with a limitless
supply of beauty and inspiration; the
more continuous the contact with one's
Chalice, the greater the abundance of
creativity.

As January entered my life and the group life, it seemed as if the group was given a most beautiful basket of amazingly colored, aromatic flowers; in other words, group undertakings, which we are to take care of throughout this year—all of which are related in some way to unfolding the history of and the very potent Teachings of Agni Yoga. Even if initially they seem extraordinarily challenging, I am sure that with the many talented and creative minds and hands of the group and friends, ready to serve voluntarily, we will see great achievements coming forth.

Let me share some of what I discovered among the basket of flowers:

First, copyright owner contracts have been signed, and our Russian translator has already begun to unfold the mysteries found in the Sina Fosdick diaries. which have been distilled into the book My Teachers. Sina was the director of the Roerich Museum and Agni Yoga Society until the time of her death. She was one of the original members of the Agni Yoga Society and a close friend to Nicholas and Helena Roerich. Found in the leaves of her diaries are many stories about her relationship with the Roerichs and their close friendship with the Master. There are also passages where Helena and Nicholas discuss their childhood, their relationship, and their many travels, as well as passages about the unfolding development of the books of Agni Yoga. Throughout the year, we will share snippets from our translations on the WMEA website.

Networkers' Letter

Next, with the permission of the director of the AY Society, we worked hard on proof-



ing and inputting many Agni Yoga compilations into our main computer. All the compilations were created by Elizabeth Meeker, but we have also added related ideas from the Supermundane books. Elizabeth Meeker was "one of the earliest members of the Agni Yoga Society. She was a Theosophist when being one was still new, and embraced Agni Yoga wholeheartedly when it began appearing." (AY website) Due to Elizabeth Meeker's dedication and lifetime of broad studies, the compilations have layers of meaning that are not available to computer searches. Thus we believe these booklets will enhance the studies of any Agni Yoga student.

Our committee decided to initially publish A Most Beautiful Garden; Preliminary Selections for New Students of the Agni Yoga Teachings; The New Race; and Health and Healing Vol. II. More compilations will be published when the funds become available. Our team of volunteers for this group endeavor included Shary Singer, who oversaw the project, Saskia Frau, Gay Hendin, Beverly Phillips, Patti Thomas, and Carol Woodard.

Meditation Monthly International is now being published in Spanish, with the electronic version available for free on the WMEA website: http://www.wmea-world.org. The English versions of MMI are presently available in hard copy for a donation of \$17.00 annually, or electronically for free on our continued on page 6

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Cover art by Nicholas Roerich

The Chalice

a Sunday Talk by Joleen DuBois

The Chalice, just as the heart, is especially close to the concept of Brotherhood. The Chalice is the repository of everything loved and precious. Sometimes, much that has been

gathered into the Chalice remains concealed for entire lives, but if the concept of Brotherhood has been impressed upon the Chalice, it will resound in both joy and yearning in all lives. To people who are cognizant of it even in an hour of difficulties and clashes, the concept of Brotherhood will be a saving factor."

The Chalice, as it is understood in Agni Yoga, is made of pure and higher etheric matter. It is not only a container, as we would imagine, but also a device for communication with Higher Worlds and with all systems of the human constitution. And, as the Master says, it "is the repository of everything loved and precious." A human being has his Chalice in the higher mental body.

Higher ethers are sometimes called cosmic ethers, which form the etheric body of the Planetary Logos. It is the Chalice that puts us into contact with the Planetary Logos. The Planetary Logos is the soul of the planet.

The Chalice is the repository of a person's duties and responsibilities.

When you read about the lives of Nicholas and Helena Roerich, the founders of the Agni Yoga Society, you recognize the responsibilities and duties that a person has when their Chalice has been impressed by the concept of Brotherhood.

When you observe your coworkers—those who are dedicated to building the Chalice—you can watch how the burdens of their responsibilities and duties increase along with their

An example of one who carried the Chalice is found in the following interview of Nicholas

Q: What is your favorite virtue? *Roerich: Tirelessness*

Roerich when he was twenty-five years old:

Q: Your favorite qualities in a man? *Roerich: Talent ... and a defined goal*

Q: And in a woman? *Roerich: Femininity*

Q: What is your favorite occupation? Roerich: My work

Q: And your chief characteristic? *Roerich: Explorer*

Q: Your idea of happiness? Roerich: To find one's path

Q: Your idea of misery? Roerich: To be misunderstood

Q: For what fault have you the most tolerance? *Roerich: Passion*

joy and commitment; you can observe how their humility and virtue increases; you observe how they renounce their personalities, their lower nature. You learn about their dedication; you learn about their renunciation and personal sacrifices; you recognize their nerves of steel; you learn about their experiences with the Brotherhood and the difficulties they encounter. Building the Chalice is not for the fainthearted.

Each of us "must be very careful to carry [our] Chalice with self-respect and dignity. [We] must carry it very carefully because as our duties and responsibilities increase, [the difficulties and

clashes] will multiply.

"[The disciple] will have many challenges and crisis points to pass. He must meet each conflict as a warrior of spirit: steadfast, daring, and powerful. Because of his strenuous preparation [and striving,] all cracks [in his nature] will be sealed and not one precious drop of energy will be wasted on self-pity, anger, doubt, or fear. The Chalice will be held upright because it contains the most sacred accumulation of precious jewels in the kingdom."2

The Contents of the Chalice

The Seeds. The Chalice holds all your good thoughts, good emotions, and good actions—all life-giving substance. It is full of manifested and unmanifested seeds. Sometimes the seeds sprout and bloom in such a way that in this life you become a violinist, a composer, a singer, a teacher of the Ageless Wisdom, a scientist. In some way, through various

conditions or the impact of certain energies, the flowers of your Lotus, the Chalice, begin to bloom. Many other seeds remain asleep.

The accumulations of your many experiences throughout the ages: your knowledge, experience, wisdom, inspiration, impressions, great revelations—all these things are in your Chalice.

"The Chalice is the repository of

spiritual consciousness and contact with higher forces. It is the seat of greater contact with the creativity within one's Self. It holds the contact with the Genius Who is sleeping within your nature. When you touch this center, you release a tremendous amount of energy and electricity into your system. If your vehicles have small cracks in them, they will not be able to hold the energy and the energy will escape. You will be out of control and at the mercy of the unleashed energy which is exhausting itself in one of your vehicles."

There is a verse in *Supermundane I*, where the Master is talking about those who want to build the Chalice, about those who want to serve Hierarchy and Humanity.⁴ He warns us that those who are building the Chalice and will carry the Chalice will be severely tested:

"Each one who wishes to serve with Us knows that he will have to endure the assaults of darkness. In words everyone is ready to do this, but in deeds will try to avoid it. Does no one realize that every deviation lengthens his path? ... Combat with darkness is unavoidable, and the waves of chaos will engulf bold fighters.... Let them learn first about the difficulties of the journey, and clearly understand the fight with darkness. Let them not hope to avoid it. The path to joy cannot be easy. There will [also] be joy."

The Master M is warning us that there are dangers in building the Chalice. It takes heroes to build the Chalice.

"The more you want to be good, you find out that more people become ugly against you. The more you become harmless, people try to be more harmful toward you. The more you forgive, the more they hate you. That is the friction that eventually creates the blooming of your Chalice."

Challenges help the Chalice to be constructed.

Grace is related to the Chalice. Our spiritual bank account is our Chalice. One minute you see you are going to die, the next minute you are alive. Something protected you. Your Chalice paid your debt. Sometimes you have a strong need for a question to be answered: What to do? Should I do this or should I do that? The Chalice will give you hints. All these experiences are grace.

The nice thing about this kind of an account is that you never lose it. If it pays one of your debts, your Chalice does not decrease. "The Chalice always accumulates." But there is one danger:

"The danger is that when the records of your evil deeds increase in your permanent atoms more than your bank, your bank may not be able to rescue you."

As you build the Chalice, you be-

come beautiful. The more beautiful you become, the more you respect beauty. The more spiritual you become, the more you attract spiritual people. Every achievement increases your magnetism, your power to attract people.

To build your Chalice requires getting rid of your ego and your vanities. Are you ready to do that? What are the signs of an ego?

"An ego demands things, tries to impose his will or forces things"; it is selfish and touchy; an ego tries to give orders without being in a position of command; an ego thinks he is very important; an ego wants to be praised; an ego shows off and enjoys doing so; tries to find errors or failures in others to feel better about himself.⁶

Another sign is vanity. We are told that those who have vanity "are better off to stay away from the Teaching because the Teaching can be a very fertile ground for the development of their vanity." Vanity is the creation of false images about yourself. Vanities makes us artificial. Vanity imposes its image on our true Self and makes our true identity disappear. The petals in our Lotus will not be able to grow and flower as long as they are trapped under the blanket of vanity.

"The Chalice is found in the Higher Mind. It is just like a Lotus and it has twelve petals." The last three petals protect the jewel, the human soul, and keep it concealed. But this is important: everything we think, feel, and do goes into our mechanism, our computer, but nothing goes into the Chalice unless it is related to knowledge, love, and sacrificial acts. The petals "record only those actions, words, feelings, motives and thoughts that are related to pure knowledge, pure love and real sacrificial service."

Knowledge. For example, science from 400 years ago seemed as if it was absolute truth. But today we know it wasn't. Two-thousand years into the future, we may see that our science was not really telling us pure truths, but it was a bridge to lead us into higher sciences. "The real truth is a fact in Cosmos that never changes and, drop by drop, accumulates into that Chalice." 10

The Chalice holds all loving actions, all that is related to love-wisdom: "your actions; your thoughts; your emotions; your motives; everything that you do, that you think, you speak that is related



Looking at distant mountains by Nicholas Roerich

to pure love, without any mixture of poison and pollution. The real love that you give to others, the real love that you express, accumulates drop by drop into that Chalice because the love petals distill them and only take true love that exists. For example, you say, 'I love you,' but really you do not. The real love, that essence that you demonstrate from the bottom of your heart, becomes drops of bliss and accumulates in the Chalice."¹¹

Sacrificial actions accumulate in the Chalice. "How much can you sacrifice for others, for your family, your nation, humanity? What really can you sacrifice? If you really are heroic and sacrificial in your thinking, in your motives, in your speech, in your actions, then drop by drop the Chalice will be filled with these three essences—knowledge essence, love essence, sacrificial essence. You will have a beautiful, full Chalice to be used at the time of your disasters, at the time you are in need." This is the grace that we hear about. Grace is the accumulated sacrifice in your Chalice.

Agni Yoga indicates "The Chalice, when unfolded, can communicate with other unfolding Chalices." It also says, Chalices "can draw treasures from other Chalices and use them for the service of humanity." Have you had such recognizable experiences?

We see evidence of this truth within our group life and within our sister groups. We bring our talents and resources to the group, which combine with the talents and resources of others in the group. This is one example of how the Chalices of one another are in communication. This communication exchange can be visible or invisible.

Another example is when your Teacher lends some of the Beauty of her Chalice when you are in need. For awhile you feel so high, but then you return to your normal level of consciousness. Or, you may be sick and unable to heal yourself. If your life is deserving and your karma allows, your Teacher can send you a ray from her Chalice to help you heal.

We give freely of our talents and resources to one another and to the Group, which builds the treasury of the group and groups.

Those who are sensitive to the Group Chalice can draw from that Chalice to increase their love, knowledge, and power, which will strength-

en their own hands and feet for group and humanitarian service.

The Teacher shares her treasury with the students and disciples in the group, just as the Chohans give their Treasury to the Masters Who loan their Treasury of Knowledge, Love, and Power to their Ashrams, which are found on the different planes of consciousness, from the Astral to the Buddhic Plane.

In *Leaves of Morya's Garden, Book One*, sutra 404, it says, "Endeavor not to spill the Chalice."

It is not uncommon to see a person with power, with knowledge, with talents, and so forth spill her Chalice. How does a person spill her Chalice? Through a big ego and vanity, through dishonesty and criminal activities. Because of her power, her money, her this and that, she puffs herself up like a blowfish and eventually becomes a slave to these things—a slave to her money, a slave to her position, a slave to her self-importance.

When this happens, she loses contact with the ray of Beauty and becomes manipulating, intimidating, and exploits others. She no longer stands for the unifying Christ principle, the principle of love. When these things happen, she has spilled the seeds of her Chalice.

It means she will have to go through several lifetimes of suffering, pain, dedicated service, and sacrifice before she can once again build her Chalice.



Spilling the seeds of one's Chalice is serious to one who is on the evolutionary path.

Through extreme misuse, we can lose what we have accumulated in our Chalice. Misuse is to go against the evolutionary forces.

In *New Era Community*, sutra 74, it says we must "uplift the Chalice." This means you must not hide your Light, Love, and Beauty from others, but demonstrate it through your work, in your relationships, in your labor to reflect Hierarchy and the Other Worlds.

If we recognize that our talents and our resources are from the Chalice, then is it not our duty to protect it and manifest it in the most righteous way? Is it not our duty to protect the treasures that blossom forth through us and to us?

How do we protect our Chalice? As Nicholas Roerich wrote: "It has been repeatedly inscribed on the scrolls of Command that a spiritual garden is in daily need of the same watering as a garden of flowers. If we still consider flowers as precious adornments of our life, then how much more must we remember and prescribe to the creative values of the spirit ... which surrounds us?"

He also said: "Let us then with untiring, eternal vigilance, benevolently mark the manifestations of [our coworkers]; and let us strive in every possible way to ease the path of heroic achievement." ¹⁵

Maya Angelou wrote: "How important it is for us to recognize and celebrate our heroes and she-roes!"

The treasury of your Chalice, the Chalice of the Group, of the Teaching, must be cared for in the most benevolent of conditions.

How do we create the most benevolent conditions? By advancing the standard of our life and the Group Life. By continuing on the work of our self-sacrificing Teachers and sowing Their seeds.

Notes

- 1 *Brotherhood*, sutra 464. © 1967 Agni Yoga Society, Inc.
- 2 Torkom Saraydarian, *Talks on Agni*, pp. 173–174. © 1987 Torkom Saraydarian
- 3 Ibid., p. 173.
- 4 Supermundane I, sutra 14. © 1994 Agni Yoga Society, Inc.
- 5 Torkom Saraydarian, *Talks on Agni*, *Volume* 2, p. 320. © 2000 The Creative Trust
- 6 Torkom Saraydarian, *Challenge for Discipleship*, pp. 129–130. © 1994 the Creative Trust
- 7 Ibid., p. 440.
- 8 Torkom Saraydarian, *Talks on Agni*, *Volume* 2, p. 310. © 2000 The Creative Trust
- 9 Ibid.
- 10-12 Ibid., p. 311.
- 13 Torkom Saraydarian, The Chalice in Agni Yoga Literature, p. 6. © 1997 The Creative Trust
- 14 Ibid., p. 7.
- 15 Nicholas Roerich, *Realm of Light*, pp. 37–38. © 1931 Roerich Museum Press

continued from page 2 Networkers' Letter

website.

We are now publishing a free monthly zodiac newsletter, which is available electronically on our website. To subscribe to the zodiac newsletter, go to http://wmea.info/TEACHINGS/astrology.htm. Each month you will receive a copy of the newsletter sent to your email inbox.

Our Sunday Talks will continue to be offered, without charge, during our weekly webcasts. If you have not yet registered for the webcasts, please contact the WMEA office, or you can sign up through the website. Some of these Talks will be available for download from our website. You can also find a few Sunday Talks available on YouTube, with more to come in the future.

And, of course, we are in full preparation for our quickly approaching WMEA Annual Living Ethics Conference and Preconference, which will be held in the pines of Prescott, Arizona, in March. It is open to all who are interested in Agni Yoga and the Ageless Wisdom Teachings. We have some wonderful surprises this year that will touch the hearts and minds of everyone. To register for the conference, please go to http://wmea. info/HAPPENING/conference.htm.This year's conference theme is "Building your Leadership: The Process of Transformation." The preconference theme is "The Masters and Hierarchy."

Finally, our annual WMEA anniversary will be held the weekend of October 15–16. This year we will be celebrating the 29th anniversary of the founding of the White Mountain Education Association.

Jdeen D Du Bain

With love,

Joleen D. DuBois,

President and Founder

continued from page 1 Agni Yoga compilation

It is not difficult to accumulate the energy of Teros or to evoke it. And it is not advisable to lose consciousness at the decisive moment, for that would produce a condition not unlike that of the so-called deadly eye. A yogi does not kill an animal by his own will; it is the evil will that smashes itself against the shield of Teros. One has to understand that not a coercive will, but the accumulation of the Chalice will provide protection and permit action.

Agni Yoga, sutra 627. Often we know a word, but cannot utter it. Its beginnings swirl in the depth of consciousness, but cannot be brought to the surface. The depth of the consciousness is strongly felt at such moments. Not in the fissures of the brain, but in some other repository are gathered the treasures of memory—indeed, it is in the Chalice.

I could remind you of times when the Chalice was physically injured, and the flow of memories immediately stopped. On the other hand, upon injury to the brain, images of one's entire life may speed by instantaneously, as if bursting from the depths.

Upon expansion of consciousness, cooperation of the centers is realized. One may cognize what can be obtained from the channels of the brain and what can be drawn out of the depths of the Chalice. Untold treasures are accumulated in the Chalice. The Chalice is one, for all incarnations. The peculiarities of the brain are a matter of heredity, but the properties of the Chalice are the result of one's own actions.

In the Chalice lies a winged child; thus does ancient wisdom remind us of the origin of consciousness.





The Florida (Sarasota) WMEA Study Group meets at 9:30 a.m., on alternate Thursday mornings in Sarasota. Please call Ginette Parisi at (941) 925-0549 for complete information. The Ohio (Marysville) WMEA group meets monthly for Sun Festivals and classes. Please call Kathy O'Conner at (937) 642-5910 for complete information. The Puerto Rico WMEA Group meets weekly to study the Teachings. Please call Jennifer Santiago at (787) 649-3817 or Pedro Serrano (787) 789-8692 for complete information.

The Colorado (Longmont) WMEA Study Group meets each month for Full Moon meditation gatherings. Please call Doreen Trees at (303) 651-1908 for complete information.

February

- Wed. 2 Class: Agni Yoga Studies, 7–8 p.m., WMEA Center
- Sun. 6 Sunday Service: Meditation, Singing, and Lecture "Evolution" with Rev. Joleen DuBois, 10:00 a.m., Creekside Center
- Tue. 8 Paloria Study Group, 6:30–8:30 p.m., WMEA Center
- Wed. 9 Class: Agni Yoga Studies, 7-8 p.m., WMEA Center
- Sun. 13 Sunday Service: Meditation, Singing, and Lecture "The Mysteries of One's Emotional Nature" with Rev. Joleen DuBois, 10:00 a.m., Creekside Center
- Tue. 15 Paloria Study Group, 6:30–8:30 p.m., WMEA Center
- Wed. 16 Aquarius Solar Festival Meditation and Lecture with Lewis Agrell, 7–8:00 p.m., WMEA Center
- Sun. 20 Sunday Service: Meditation, Singing, and Lecture "Are You Content?" with Rev. Joleen DuBois, 10:00 a.m., Creekside Center
- Wed. 23 Class: Agni Yoga Studies, 7-8 p.m., WMEA Center
- Sun 27 Sunday Service: Meditation, Singing, and Lecture "Can You Escape from Your Karma?" with Rev. Joleen DuBois, 10:00 a.m., Creekside Center

March

- Wed. 2 Class: Agni Yoga Studies, 7–8 p.m., WMEA Center
- Sun. 6 Sunday Service: Meditation, Singing, and Lecture "Human Beings are Sparks, Not Bodies" with Rev. Joleen DuBois, 10:00 a.m., Creekside Center
- Tue. 8 Paloria Study Group, 6:30–8:30 p.m., WMEA Center
- Wed. 9 Class: Agni Yoga Studies, 7–8 p.m., WMEA Center
- **Sun. 13** Sunday Service: Meditation, Singing, and Lecture "*The Light within Us*" with Rev. Joleen DuBois, 10:00 a.m., Creekside Center
- Tue. 15 **Paloria Study Group,** 6:30–8:30 p.m., WMEA Center
- Wed. 16 Solar Festival of Pisces Group Meditation with Rev. Joleen DuBois; 7–8 p.m., WMEA Center
- Sat/Sun. 19/20 WMEA Annual Preconference Weekend
- Sun. 20 WMEA Membership Meeting 7–8 p.m. (Members only)
- Mon.-Fri. 21-25 WMEA Annual Living Ethics Conference
- Sun. 27 Sunday Service: Meditation, Singing, and Lecture "Punctuality" with Saskia Frau, 10:00 a.m., Creekside Center

Wed. 30 No Class Meeting

Ask about Sunday classes for kids and teens.

All Sunday lectures from Prescott are available on CD.

CDs are \$7.00 plus \$5.00 for postage and handling (increase due to new postal rates).

Please send your order to: WMEA, 543 Eastwood Drive, Prescott, AZ 86303.

WMEA Center: 543 Eastwood Dr., Prescott – Phone: (928) 778-0638 for information. Creekside Center: 337 N. Rush St., Prescott (Mail for WMEA will not be accepted at this address.)

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Look for it on the World Wide Web http://www.wmea-world.org

If you are in the following areas, you are welcome to call for information about the local White Mountain Study Group:

In Sarasota, Florida (941) 925-0549 In Longmont, Colorado (303) 651-1908

In Puerto Rico (787) 649-3817 (787) 789-8692 In Marysville, Ohio (937) 642-5910

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